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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 February 1949

SUBJECT Possible Removal of Police
25X1A6a President Paul Markgraf

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25X1X6SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. There have been indications during the past year that the SMA and the SED were dissatisfied with the performance and political attitude of Paul Markgraf, Police President of Berlin (East). Well informed police officials were convinced that Markgraf was permitted to stay in office by the SMA only because of the peculiar political circumstances prevailing in Berlin: i.e., prior to the split in the Berlin police in July 1948 the SMA obviously could not agree to the dismissal or resignation of Markgraf who was under constant attack of the city administration and the western-licensed press. His dismissal at that time would have automatically made Dr. Johannes Stumm Acting Police President. Following the police split, Markgraf's removal would have had a bad psychological effect on the Eastern Sector and would have indirectly strengthened the authority of Dr. Stumm. But throughout this period (from July 1948 to January 1949) the SED leadership felt dissatisfied with the ideological attitude of the Eastern Sector police. Several attempts were made to strengthen the Communist spirit. Thus the politically reliable but ideologically inactive Chiefs of the Schutzpolizei and Criminal Police, Rudolf Wagner and Franz Erdmann, were replaced by two police "activists" from the Soviet Zone police organizations: the former Chemnitz Chief of Police, Ottomar Pech, and the former Chief of Abteilung "K" of the GAI, Alfred Schönherr, respectively.
2. While Markgraf was permitted to remain in office as Police President of the Eastern Sector, his authority was being gradually whittled down. For example, in early December 1948 the German Administration of the Interior ordered the establishment of a Polit-Kultur Department in the Eastern Sector Police Praesidium and as specified that this new department, headed by Police Vice-President Arthur Lehmann, will be directly responsible to the K/P Branch of the GAI and not to Markgraf. In the middle of January 1949 an order was issued, ostensibly by Markgraf, which stated that only Vice-President Lehmann can authorize press releases. Other reliable sources reported that in at least two instances the GAI prevailed on Markgraf to appoint certain personnel of whom Markgraf himself disapproved for both personal and professional reasons.
3. Throughout the fall of 1948 Markgraf had been in ill health. In

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October he had not been in his office for almost three weeks, which gave rise to many rumors about his immediate resignation or dismissal. These rumors, [REDACTED], were wholly unfounded at that time. Of course Markgraf's illness facilitated greatly the rapid ascendancy of the Praesidialdirektor Hans Seidel, who is regarded by many as the "strong man" behind Markgraf.

4. On 17 January 1949 Seidel received a letter from Fritz Ebert, the "Lord Mayor" of the illegal Eastern Sector city administration. In his letter Ebert stated that it was the desire of General Kotikov that Seidel should intensively familiarize himself with the official business of the Police President.

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Comment: While Vice-President Lehmann is next in line of succession to Markgraf, Seidel can also be regarded as a logical candidate. From extensive reports on the background and personality of Seidel the following is summarized: Hans Seidel was one of the more important Soviet agents installed in the Berlin police during the early days of the Russian occupation. In May 1947, when holding the position of Chief of Personnel in the Schutzpolizei, he was summarily dismissed from the Berlin police upon orders of the Allied Kommandatura. During the months of quadripartite discussions preceding his dismissal, his criminal past was proved to such an extent that General Kotikov was forced to consent to Seidel's removal. In its order to the Police President the Kommandatura stated: "..... Seidel is to be dismissed from his position immediately and will not be reemployed by the Berlin police in any capacity whatsoever". On 22 April 1948 Seidel was appointed unilaterally by the Russians to a police position which required quadripartite approval. This was one of the first of the series of Russian overt acts leading to the dissolution of quadripartite government in Berlin.)

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